

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the amendments and the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 is currently pending. Claims 12-16 and 18-19 are canceled by the present amendment.

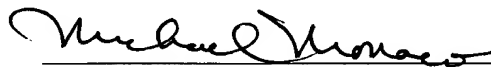
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 12-19 were objected to; Claims 12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 5,286,976 to Cole (hereinafter "the '976 patent"); Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '976 patent in view of German Patent no. DE 3333410 to Koeder (hereinafter "the '410 patent"), and further in view of U.S. Patent no. 6,329,655 to Jack (hereinafter the '655 patent"). Claim 19 was not rejected in view of the prior art. Thus, Applicants interpret Claim 19 as being found allowable over the applied references.

In view of the cancellation of Claims 12-16 and combining of Claims 18 and 19 into Claim 17, the rejections are rendered moot.

Consequently, in light of the amendments and the above discussion, the outstanding ground for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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